

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KATO, et al.
 Filed: January 24, 2001
 For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING
 METHOD THEREFOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

January 24, 2001

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to
 examination thereof, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, delete lines 1-8 in their entirety, and
 substitute therefor the following:

- This application is a Divisional application of
 application Serial No. 09/461,432, filed December 16, 1999,
 which is a Continuation application of application Serial No.
 09/177,495, filed October 23, 1998, ^{Now 6,012,235} which is a Continuation
 application of application Serial No. 09/061,062, filed April
 16, 1998, ^{Now 5,450,330} which is a Continuation application of application
 Serial No. 08/882,731, filed June 26, 1997, ^{Now 5,784,799} which is a
 Divisional application of application Serial No. 08/593,870,
 filed January 30, 1996, ^{Now 5,661,913} which is a Continuing application of
 application Serial No. 08/443,039, filed May 17, 1995, ^{Now 5,563,396} which
 is a Divisional application of application Serial No.

M. Gerson
#2/pre
amlt a
7/26/2001

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